

PROCLAMATION
VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK
NOVEMBER 11 – NOVEMBER 17, 2001

WHEREAS, throughout history, courageous men and women have taken up arms to secure, defend, and maintain the core principles of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness, on which our Nation's freedoms depend; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 25 million living veterans who served in times of peace and war, many who willingly entered harm's way to fight for our freedoms; their service kept America strong, and they protected our way of life for more than two centuries.

WHEREAS, more than one million men and women died in service to America; and more than one and a half million have been wounded. Some sustained serious injuries in combat and now live with disabilities. This year, 88,000 veterans will be laid in honored rest in a National Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, 54,800 living veterans call North Dakota home; more than 168,000 service men and women from North Dakota have fought for our country during major war periods, leaving behind families, friends, and loved ones who waited patiently for their return; and

WHEREAS, our troops are now fighting overseas to defeat terrorism, and, in that effort, they follow in the footsteps of the 48 million men and women who, since our Nation's founding, have stepped forward to defend our land. Men and women of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard are serving around the world; and

NOW THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I proclaim November 11 through November 17, 2001 as **VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK** in North Dakota, and I call upon all citizens of our great state to pause and reflect on the sacrifices of all those who have served in the United States military. Further, I call upon our educators to invite a veteran to speak at their school in an effort to remind young people of the strong principles on which our nation is founded. Our nation will always be grateful for the noble sacrifices made by these veterans. I invite all citizens of North Dakota, in concurrence with NATIONAL VETERANS AWARENESS WEEK, as proclaimed by President Bush, to support this observance with suitable commemorative expressions and programs to honor and respect our veterans for their service.

_____/s/
John Hoeven
Governor

ATTEST:

_____/s/
Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State